

WASHINGTON, DC - Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (Md.) released the following statement today on Covered the Uninsured Week (March 22-28), a weeklong effort to foster conversation about reforming the nation's health care system and making affordable health insurance available to the 45 million currently uninsured Americans.

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“America's health care system is in need of reform. Millions of Americans are living without health insurance, and millions more are underinsured or barely able to afford the coverage they have. Rising health care costs are becoming more of a burden for families and businesses, and are grabbing a greater share of the federal budget every year.

“Waiting on health care reform is not an option we can afford any longer. And it is not one we can put aside in the midst of an economic recession where families, businesses and our economy need the relief that a more efficient and affordable health care system can provide.

“Congress has already taken action this year to cover 11 million uninsured children, and - through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - help states continue their Medicaid programs and extend coverage to those who have lost their jobs and their health insurance in this recession. These were necessary and effective steps, but only through comprehensive reform can we affect the kind of change that is truly needed to make health care work better for everyone. We look forward to working with President Obama - and all those committed to reform - to enact comprehensive legislation this year that lowers costs, preserves patient choice, increases coverage, and improves the quality of care for all Americans.”